

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-9. (canceled)

10. (withdrawn) A product of any of the processes of claims 6 through 9.

11. (withdrawn) The product of claim 10 wherein the product is a drug, treatment, or cell assay.

12. (withdrawn) A method for screening treatments for efficacy in the treatment of persistent neurogenic pain comprising: a) preparing animals for testing by the method of claim 1; b) testing the animals for a first level of pain behavior or selected physiological parameter of nerve function before administration of the agent to be tested; c) administering the agent to be tested; and d) determining a second level of pain behavior or selected physiologic parameters of nerve function after administration of the agent to be tested, wherein an alteration in the level of pain behavior or the selected physiological parameter as compared to the level before administration of the agent is indicative of efficacy of the treatment tested.

13. (withdrawn) The method of claim 12 wherein the pain behavior is mechanical allodynia or mechanical hyperalgesia.

14. (withdrawn) The method of claim 13 wherein the pain behavior tested is the response to light touch or pin prick.

15. (withdrawn) A method for developing treatments for persistent neuropathic pain in animals comprising screening treatments by the method of claim 12.

16. (withdrawn) Compositions for the treatment of persistent neuropathic pain in animals comprising treatments identified by the method of claim 12.

17. (withdrawn) The compositions of claim 16 wherein said compositions are analgesics or a mixture of a steroid and an anesthetic.

18. (currently amended) A method for producing a non-human mammalian model for persistent neurogenic pain, comprising the step of:

altering a tibial nerve or a branch of a tibial nerve of a mammal non-traumatically and ~~non-transgenically~~ non-surgically by placing a gel substance into the fascial tunnel through which the tibial nerve or the branch of the tibial nerve passes, such that a physiologic change is produced around the nerve, the physiologic change being associated with persistent neurogenic pain, thereby producing a non-human mammalian model for persistent neurogenic pain.

19. (canceled)

20. (currently amended) The method of claim ~~[[19]]~~ 18, wherein the gel substance ~~includes~~ comprises collagen.

21. (canceled)

22. (currently amended) The method of claim ~~[[21]]~~ 18, wherein the placement of the gel substance leads to the development of allodynia, hyperalgesia or both. ~~the physiologic change is selected from the group consisting of allodynia and hyperalgesia.~~

23. (currently amended) A non-human mammalian model for persistent neurogenic pain, ~~comprising an induced, non-traumatic and non-transgenic alteration of a nerve of a mammal,~~ wherein a tibial nerve or a branch of a tibial nerve in the mammal has been altered non-traumatically and non-surgically by placing a gel substance into the fascial tunnel through which the tibial nerve or the branch of the tibial nerve passes. wherein a physiologic change associated with persistent neurogenic pain is produced around the nerve.

24. (canceled)

25. (currently amended) The non-human mammalian model of claim ~~[[24]]~~ 23, wherein the gel substance ~~includes~~ comprises collagen.

26. (canceled)

27. (currently amended) The non-human mammalian model of claim ~~[[26]]~~ 23, wherein the placement of the gel substance leads to the development of allodynia, hyperalgesia or both, the physiologic change is selected from the group consisting of allodynia and hyperalgesia.